



Gurkha Museum News Release

Date: 23 July 2020

Daren Bowyer Appointed as Director of the Gurkha Museum on the Retirement of Gavin Edgerley-Harris

The Gurkha Museum is very pleased to announce the appointment of Daren Bowyer as the new Director of the Gurkha Museum effective from 1 October 2020 in succession to Gavin Edgerley-Harris who is retiring after twenty-seven years at the Gurkha Museum, latterly as Director for the last seven years.

Daren Bowyer, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Engineers, is currently Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive at Cumberland Lodge, an Educational Foundation and Residential Conference Centre in Windsor Great Park. He is well versed in senior educational and charity leadership roles and has a deep interest in military history, heritage and culture.*

Welcoming the appointment, Martin Brooks, Chairman of the Gurkha Museum Trustees said:

“ I am delighted that we have recruited Daren Bowyer as a worthy successor to Gavin Edgerley-Harris as Director of the Gurkha Museum Trust. Daren has a wealth of experience to draw on to lead the operations of the Gurkha Museum and working with our Trustees and Stakeholders, execute our ambitious plans to tell the inspiring Gurkha story more widely. I would also like to pay tribute to Gavin as retires, with his many achievements and selfless service to the Brigade of Gurkhas over so many years, enhancing the Gurkha Museum’s role as the touchstone for its history and heritage.”

Daren Bowyer commented:

“As someone with a lifelong interest in military history and heritage and having completed a PhD under the supervision of the late Richard Holmes, I could not be happier than to be appointed Director of the Gurkha Museum Trust. I join at a time when the Museum is rising admirably to the challenges of the Covid pandemic and is ready for the next stage of its development with ambitious plans for the future. I am honoured to have been selected for the role and cannot wait to get started.”

Gavin Edgerley-Harris added:

“Upon retirement, I wish to acknowledge the contribution made to the Museum by the many Trustees, staff, volunteers and supporters with whom I have worked over the years. Their level of commitment to ensuring the Museum operated to the highest standards has been remarkable. It is reassuring to know that I leave the Museum in good hands under expert leadership for a sound future.”

END

*A summary biography of Daren Bowyer is contained in the Notes on the next page.

Registered Charity No 1169920 (formerly 272426)

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Notes for Editors:

The Gurkha Museum

The Gurkha Museum Trust, "The Gurkha Museum" is a registered charity based in Winchester and is the principal source of history for the Brigade of Gurkhas. Alongside the Serving Brigade of Gurkhas, the Gurkha Brigade Association and the Gurkha Welfare Trust, The Gurkha Museum stands as one of the Four Pillars of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

The Gurkha Museum is open to the public and tells the story of over 200 years of Gurkha service to the British Crown, beginning in 1814. The visitor experience not only covers battles and campaigns, but the culture, religion and social structure of Gurkha soldiers. Further details can be found at its website <https://thegurkhamuseum.co.uk>, or by contacting the Director.

The role of Director of the Gurkha Museum was originally advertised in January 2020 and over fifty candidates applied. The selection process was interrupted by the Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown and completed after its partial lifting in July.

Daren Bowyer

Daren Bowyer left the Army as a post-command Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Engineers in 2008. Regimental Duty included 2IC of 1st Field Squadron Royal Engineers during the 1991 Gulf War, OC 20 Field Squadron Royal Engineers and CO Cambridge University Officer Training Corps. His staff appointments included the MoD, HQ ARRC, British Army Staff Washington and on the Directing Staff of the Royal Military College of Science. Shortly before leaving the Army he undertook an operational deployment to Afghanistan as Chief, Future Operations, Combined Security Transition Command.

Subsequently, he spent five years as Home Bursar of Pembroke College, Oxford and thereafter as Director of the Sandhurst Trust and as Chief Executive of the Newbury & District Agricultural Society, directing the Royal County of Berkshire Show, before joining Cumberland Lodge.

His educational achievements include a PhD from Cranfield University where he studied under the late Professor Richard Holmes, and an MPhil in International Relations from Cambridge. He also attended the RAF Staff College Advanced Staff Course. Daren's voluntary roles have included chairing a charity promoting science in schools, a regional coordinator of the English Speaking Union and as a County Commandant of the Army Cadet Force. He is married to Jill, an Art teacher in Wallingford, where they live. They have three adult children – a post-doctoral immunologist in Cambridge, a medical communications executive and a fashion student at Kingston.

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